GODMANCHESTER
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Urban District Council.

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Godmanchester,

FOR THE YEAR 1926,

BY

CHARLES E. HICKS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

HUNTINGDON:

W. H. SMITH & SON, PRINTERS, HIGH STREET.

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TO THE
GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

The Ministry of Health require information on certain subjects. This information is embodied in this report to save extra printing and time.

The population in 1926 was 2101.

The soil proper is gravel, and that of the higher ground Oxford Clay.

The population is mostly connected with agricultural pursuits. There are two Mills working in the Borough. A Hosiery Factory employing a large number of women and girls, also a Flour Mill.

Vital Statistics.

The Births registered were 36, 22 males and 14 females, of these, 4 male and 2 female were illegitimate, this gives a birth-rate of 17·01 per 1000 persons living. The Birth-rate for England and Wales is 17·8 per 1000.

The deaths registered were 32, 20 males and 12 females, an average of 15-2 per 1000 persons living, of these 5 were over 70, 6 over 80 and 1 over 90. The Death-rate for England and Wales is 11·6 per 1000.

Infantile Mortality.

Four children died under one year of age.

Poor Law Medical relief is utilised to a fair extent, principally amongst the older inhabitants, also the Huntingdon County Hospital is used both by Out and In-door patients.

Water Supply.

The Town is supplied by wells but the water in many of them is not fit for drinking, and a few wells run dry during prolonged drought. I hope some scheme will soon be devised by which householders could be guaranteed a constant supply of good and pure water.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Sanitary conditions of the District remain in much the same condition as in previous years. There are 450 pail closets and 24 water closets. This Council must also consider works for a proper drainage and sewage system and thus do away with the very unsatisfactory arrangement of pail closets and the nuisance it entails to the inhabitants of the Borough.

Inspections.

During the year I have made inspections of the district, accompanied by your Inspector of Nuisances.

Nuisance Inspection is embodied in the Sanitary Officer's Report, *vide* page 6.

Scavenging.

Refuse is collected in an open cart with no top and ploughed into the land by farmers at an annual cost of £395.

I hope a covered in refuse cart will soon be purchased by your Authority as it is urgently needed.

Lodging Houses.

There is one registered and properly inspected, but it is an old building, not up to date, and its cleanliness is much to be desired.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply is wholesome. The Dairies and Cow-sheds are generally in good condition. There are many acres of commons and grazing land which is conducive to the healthiness of the cows.

All Dairies are now registered and the milch cows properly inspected.

Food Supply.

No samples of food were sent for analysis.

There are three registered Slaughterhouses in the district and all are clean, periodically inspected and properly licensed.

Infectious and other Diseases.

During the year the Borough was visited by epidemics of Scarlet Fever and Chicken Pox.

All houses in which Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria appeared were disinfected during the first 24 hours.

The following were notified under the Act :—

Varicella	20	
Scarlet Fever	16	Treated in Isolation Hospital.
Tuberculosis	5	
Pneumonia	3	Two fatal.
Diphtheria	1	Treated in Isolation Hospital.
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	
Enteric	1	
	47	

Cancer.

There were 5 deaths from Cancer during the year.

Isolation Hospital.

The District now sends cases of Infectious Disease to the Huntingdon Joint Hospital.

Housing.

House accommodation for the labouring classes is of a mixed character. The old thatched cottages are gradually being re-placed by more modern dwelling-houses, and the house accommodation is generally improving. There are a number of houses which are very old, damp and unfit for habitation. Some of these are occupied by large families and there is overcrowding.

On account of this shortage these old delapidated dwellings must be occupied by the inhabitants of the Borough as there are no new houses to transfer them to if the condemed are shut up.

The Council have this year built twenty houses in Cambridge Road, but this number is quite insufficient for the district.

There is plenty of open space about the houses, the cleanliness of the surroundings in some places is not of a high class, the yards being imperfectly paved and gravelled.

CHARLES E. HICKS,
Medical Officer of Health,
Godmanchester Urban District Council.

HUNTINGDON,
1927.

Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1926.

Number of Inspections made		203
Number of Notices served		71
(Informal 35, Statutory 36)		
Complaints received	Total No. of	12
Premises, houses, etc.	No. inspected	91
	Nuisances abated	70
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse ...	No. inspected	2
	Nuisances abated	2
Animals improperly kept ...	No. inspected	1
	Nuisances abated	1
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit ...	No. inspected	44
	Nuisances abated	44
Drain, Drain-traps, etc., etc. ...	No. inspected	21
	Nuisances abated	19
House, or part thereof, overcrowded	No. inspected	5
	Nuisances abated	3
Offensive accumulations	No. inspected	17
	Nuisances abated	17
Other sanitary conditions	No. inspected	20
	Nuisances abated	15
Lodging houses	No. registered	1
	No. of inspections	8
Slaughter houses	No. licensed or registered	3
	No. of inspections	12
Public Health Act, 1875	No. houses cleaned and limewashed	6
Infectious Diseases	Houses affected with	18
	Houses inspected	18
	No. of inspections	20
	Houses disinfected	18
	Disinfectant used	Formalin

Pail or Earth Closets	New provided	2
	No. converted to W.C's	1
Ashpits	No. converted to ashbins	7
Ashbins	New provided	37
Water supply	Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	3
	Waste pipes disconnected from drain	2

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Workshops	Total number on register (including bakehouses)	9
	No. in which nuisances abated	2
Bakehouses	No. on register	4
Home Work	No. of outworkers	1
	No. of houses	1

G. STEVENS,
Sanitary Inspector.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk (Milk Sellers)—

No. in District	24
No. Registered	24
No. of Inspections of Premises	50
No. of Inspections during Milking Time... ...	20
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing. &c.	6
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	6
No. of Premises requiring Structural or Sanitary Improvements	2
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	2

Regulations have been adopted.

Premises with Well Water Supply—

No. of	24
No. of, from which water Analysed	Nil.

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk—(Butter and Cheese Makers)—

No. in District	19
No. Inspection of Premises	47

The general condition of the Cowsheds is fair, though many of them are without proper floors and drainage.

G. STEVENS,

29th April, 1927. *Sanitary Inspector.*

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS,

STATISTICS.

Year ending 31st December, 1926.

General.

(1)	Area				4906 Acres
(2)	Estimated population				2101
(3)	General death-rate				15·2
(4)	Death-rate from tuberculosis				·47
(5)	Infantile mortality...				·8
(6)	Births	Legitimate 18M. 12F.	Illegitimate 4M. 2F.	Total	36
(7)	Birth-rate				17·01
(8)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes				440
(9)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses				335
(10)	Rateable value				£8975
(11)	Sum represented by penny rate				£36 10s. 0d.

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—Inspection.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	30
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	20
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4)	Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonaably fit for human habitation, being old and damp	12

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	7

Causes of Death in the Borough of Godmanchester, 1926.

		Males.	Females.
	All Causes (Civilians only)	20	12
1.	Enteric Fever	...	...
2.	Small Pox	...	...
3.	Measles	...	...
4.	Scarlet Fever	...	...
5.	Whooping Cough	..	1
6.	Diphtheria	...	...
7.	Influenza	...	...
8.	Encephalitis Lethargica	..	...
9.	Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...
10.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	...	1
11.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...
12.	Cancer, Malignant Disease	3	2
13.	Rheumatic Fever	...	...
14.	Diabetes	...	..
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c, ...	...	1
16.	Heart Disease	5	...
17.	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...
18.	Bronchitis	1	2
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1
20.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...
21.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1
22.	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years	...	
23.	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...
24.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...
25.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...
26.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...
27.	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnacy and Parturition	...	...
28.	Congenital Debility and Malformation Premature Birth	3	...
29.	Suicide	1	...
30.	Other Deaths from Violence	2	...
31.	Other Defined Diseases	2	3
32.	Causes Ill-defined or unknown	...	...

BOROUGH OF GODMANCHESTER.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1926.

Death from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes	Certified	4									4
	Uncertified	Nil									
Premature Birth											
		4									4

Net Births in the year :—Legitimate...30. Nett Deaths in the year of :—Legitimate Infants...4
Illegitimate 6. Illegitimate ,, 0

Ten Years Fatal Cases of:

Year.	Cancer.	Phthisis and Tuberhular Disease.
1917	4	5
1918	2	1
1919	5	3
1920	1	2
1921	1	4
1922	0	3
1923	4	1
1924	3	2
1925	5	2
1926	5	1
	30	24

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